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07278

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No: 2309/OK361

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Yoshinori TANAKA et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Examiner: N/A

For: **CLEANING ARTICLE**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 15 and 16 as follows:

15. The cleaning article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fiber bundle layer is partially joined to adjacent strips, at midway positions of said adjacent strips.

16. The cleaning article as set forth in claim 1, wherein a sheet for forming said strips is formed of either a nonwoven fabric comprising thermoplastic fibers or a thermoplastic resin film.

Add claims 18 and 19 as follows:

18. The cleaning article as set forth in claim 11, wherein said fiber bundle layer is partially joined to adjacent strips, at midway positions of said adjacent strips.

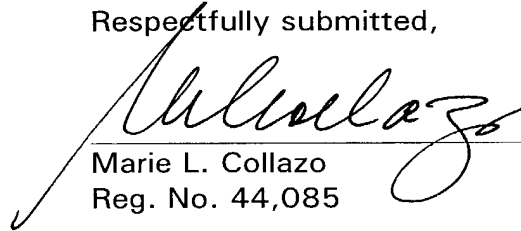
19. The cleaning article as set forth in claim 11, wherein a sheet for forming said strips is formed of either a nonwoven fabric comprising thermoplastic fibers or a thermoplastic resin film.

REMARKS

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 1 and eliminate multiple claim dependency, and claims 18 and 19 have been added corresponding to claims 15 and 16 but depending from claim 11.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MARK-UP OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS
OF March 8, 2002**

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

March 8, 2002

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS:

15. (Amended) The cleaning article as set forth in [Claim 1 or 11] claim 1, wherein said fiber bundle layer is partially joined to adjacent strips, at midway positions of said adjacent strips.

16. (Amended) The cleaning article as set forth in [Claim 1 or 11] claim 1, wherein a sheet for forming said strips is formed of either a nonwoven fabric comprising thermoplastic fibers or a thermoplastic resin film.

17. (New) The cleaning article as set forth in claim 11, wherein said fiber bundle layer is partially joined to adjacent strips, at midway positions of said adjacent strips.

18. (New) The cleaning article as set forth in claim 11, wherein a sheet for forming said strips is formed of either a nonwoven fabric comprising thermoplastic fibers or a thermoplastic resin film.